

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 - 27 were previously pending in the application. An Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 was filed on May 16, 2003 (but was not entered for allegedly possessing subject matter which would require a new search as noted in the Advisory Action of June 17, 2003). In light of the previous, a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") is filed herewith.

Endemic to the RCE, entry of the May 16, 2003, Amendment is respectfully requested, wherein claims 2, 3 and 24 - 27 are cancelled and claims 28 - 36 are added as new claims. Additionally as to new claim 28, please find herein a preliminary amendment to correct a typographical error in that claim.

In light of the previous, claims 1, 4 - 23 and 28 - 36 are presently pending in the application.

For the reasons discussed in the Amendment filed May 26, 2003, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 4 - 23 and 28 - 36 are patentable.

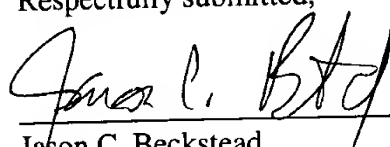
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**U.S. Application No. 09/977,995**

**Attorney Docket No.: Q66786**

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jason C. Beckstead  
Registration No. 48,232

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

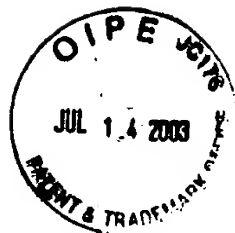


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: July 14, 2003

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**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

28. (Amended) A recording apparatus, comprising:

a flexible ink bag for storing ink consumed by the recording apparatus therein, on which a non-contact type memory IC is provided, the ink bag being deformable in accordance with the consumption of ink and detachably provided in the recording apparatus; and

a data communicator, which opposes the memory IC and ~~performed~~ performs non-contact data communication therewith; wherein:

the bag body includes a first part having a first flexibility and a second part having a second flexibility which is lower than the first flexibility; and

the memory IC is provided in the first part of the bag body.